NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

While the taste for Gothic architecture, which has of late revived throughout the country, has led to the restoring and the beautifying of our magnificent cathedrals (says the *Norfolk Chronicle*), the churches of our villages have also shared in the improvement. The churches at Fincham, at Runcton, at Holme, and at several other places, have lately been entirely re-pewed with open sittings, thus doing away with invidious distinction between rich and poor. Great improvement has also been made in the church at Marham. Besides a new roof, executed by Mr. James Taylor, the Villebois family has otherwise contributed liberally to the adornment of this church. One of the windows in the aisle (which from time immemorial had been nearly blocked up), has been re npened, new mullions added, and the whole glazed with painted glass by Mr. Warrington; and we hear, adds our authority, that it is the intention of Mr. Villebois also to give two more stained glass windows, and that Mr. Warrington is now employed in executing them. The parishioners, too, intend putting the other windows into thorough repair.——The church of Heydon, in the same county, though said to be always kept in good order, has lately undergone extensive alteration, including repairs to the roof and a new east window of five lights, in harmony with the general style of the fabric. To the latter improvement, H. M. the Queen Dowager, Mr. W. E. L. Bulwer, and others, have contributed. The seats have also been re-arranged—square pews superseded by open benches—the old pulpit restored, and the chancel, with a new oak reredos and stalls, has assumed, adds the *Chronicle*, an appearance which we should wish to see imitated in the neighbouring churches of Salle, Cawston, and Aylsham.——A general appeal has been issued for the means of restoring the ancient round tower of All Saints' Church, Belton, Suffolk, which the Rev. A. Suckling, in "Memorials of the Antiquities of the County of Suffolk," now in the course of publication, describes as comprising a nave and chancel, 'with a circular tower at the west end, long ruinated;' the edifice otherwise, whic his 'constructed of cut flints,' being in good condition. The foundations of this old tower, respecting the erection of which nothing whatever is known by tradition or otherwise, are said to be entire; enough remaining to shew that it was one of the circular towers by no means uncommon in Norfolk and Suffolk, and to determine also its circumference and thickness of the walls. The estimate of expense (including the removal of a wooden belfry over the south porch) is 360*l*. The Bishop of Norwich, Lord Boston, Magdalen College Oxford, &c., have already contributed upwards of 150*l*. towards the end in view.——The Exeter Water Company have offered to supply water gratis to the baths and washhouses about to be established at Exeter.——West Lavington Church, re-opened by the Bishop of Salisbury on Tuesday week before last, has undergone a thorough restoration. The south transept has been given up by the Churchill family for additional seats, 260 of which, made of oak and low elevation, have been gained, notwithstanding the demolition of the galleries. The whole edifice has been re-roofed, and the nave roof restored to its original pitch, after the model of Ely Cathedral roof, and in oak. The east window is described as being now 'rich with dim religious light.' The windows, too, of the north transept and western end of the church, and a small early English one in the east gable of the nave, have been filled-in by Mr. Powell. The whole expense will not amount, it is said, to more than 1,600*l*., 1,400*l*. of which have been realized. The repair of the tower is also spoken of.——On Tuesday week, the united committees for the erection of a lunatic asylum for Hereford, Monmouth, Brecon, and Radnor, met at Abergavenny, where the building is to be erected, for the furtherance of preliminary measures, such as the appointment of Mr. Thomas Fulljames, of Gloucester, as architect for the intended asylum, the appointment of a clerk, at 50*l*. per annum, during the erection of the building, and of a sub-committee, to select a proper site, with the assistance of the architect. The proposed asylum is to be adapted for the accommodation of 200 patients, with power to increase.——The ancient church of Kinwarton, near Alcester, restored by the Rev. R. Seymour, has been re-opened. The style of restoration is simple, without much decoration. The chancel-floor has been laid with Minton's tesselated tiles, in a circular design. The rood-screens, pulpit, priests' stalls, &c., are carved in oak. The east window, made by Mr. O'Connor, of London, is of stained-glass. The ceiling is of oak, shewing principals and timbers; and the body of the church has been repewed with open and free sittings. Mr. W. Butterfield was the architect employed; and Messrs. Miles and Son, of Stratford-on-Avon, builders, executed the designs.——The sureties of the late Mr. Walthew, the contractor for the new gaol at Birmingham, have offered 3,000*l*., with costs, in full discharge of their alleged liability of about 3,469*l*.; but one of the town-councillors, Mr. J. B. Payn, determined not to allow the sureties to outdo the council in generosity or at least in justice, proposed an amendment on the motion for approval and acceptance of the offer, to the effect, that 2,000*l*. be received in full of all demands, 'that sum, together with the amount of 1,500*l*. already retained by the committee from Mr. Walthew, being the whole amount stipulated to be paid by the bond in default of the completion of the contract.' It was observed on the other hand, however, that the corporation or the rate-payers were 'losers to the extent of 2,000*l*. by the new contract which they had to make, owing to the advance in labour and materials;' and the amendment was ultimately negatived, and the original resolution carried. The sureties, on their part, allege that they were additional and heavy losers, by advances to the contractor on the faith of insurance from loss, by a sum retained by the committee as security, and which a member of committee himself assured them would render their risk only nominal, but which the committee appear to have expended in carrying on the building themselves, when the contractor fell a victim to his inability to fulfil 'the bond,' by which the committee themselves, whether from advance in labour and materials or 'their own superintendence,' have been the less personal and more fortunate losers. They seem to consider it necessary to explain, that they were prevented from refusing to accept Mr. Walthew's bond in the outset by a regard for his business reputation.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

December 1.—Mr. Wm. Wyon, R.A., in the chair.

Five specimens of painting on glass, by M. De Ron, of Munich, were exhibited. The secretary stated that the colours used by M. De Ron are glasses of different degrees of hardness, care being taken in using them never to put a harder upon a softer metal. Also, he uses both sides of the glass: this enables him to obtain clearness and decision of colour. Mr. Hall offered some remarks on the history and manufacture of stained glass, and exhibited several specimens of modern manufacture.

Mr. S. Moulton exhibited a model of an iron truss railway bridge, the invention of Mr. Rider, of New York. Mr. Moulton stated that the directors of the New York and Harlem Railroad have erected a bridge on this principle, the span of it being 70 feet, and having a double track or roadway upon it, and the whole weight of metal used in its construction weighs only thirteen tons, while its cost was under 500*l*.

A paper was read by Mr. Archer on Engraving, with reference to monumental brasses and incised stones. The author commenced by referring to the very early period at which the art of engraving appears to have been known and practised by the lapidary and goldsmith, and the probability that those to whom the art was known were subject to a precise code of laws and connected with the priestly office, these laws having the effect of regulating the productions according to a given standard set up by the heads of their order, thus giving a singular uniformity to the numerous examples of antique art, whether in painting, sculpture, or engraving. After alluding to the Egyptian, Etruscan, Greek, and Roman specimens of engraving, and similarity, and common origin, he proceeded to point out the various purposes to which the art of engraving on brass was employed, such as the representation of geographical diagrams.

In the time of Herodotus edicts and public records were sometimes inscribed on brass tablets, a striking instance of which occurs in the preservation, down to the present time, of the will and acts of the Emperor Augustus. Having touched upon some few instances of the ancient practice of the caleographic art, the author proceeded to detail some particulars of that process as it appeared at the general revival of art during the middle ages. In the eighth century, by a law of Kenneth, king of Scotland, it was enjoined that a cross should be put on every gravestone, *i. e.*, coffin lid, and this appears to have been done in three ways,—firstly, by the use of incised lines drawn round the object; secondly, by producing the form in low relief; and thirdly, by a wholly excised figure. The use of sepulchral brasses appears to have originated with the general revival of art in the thirteenth century; one of the earliest specimens is that of Sir Roger de Trompington, who died in 1289. The brasses of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries contain, besides the effigies of warriors, churchmen, ladies, and civilians, many examples of beautiful decoration, derived from the architectural practice of the time; different combinations of the letters I. H. S., composing the sacred monogram, appear in the brasses of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth century. In the sixteenth century, at the time of the Reformation, these sacred monuments appear to have become obnoxious, and were accordingly swept out of the churches with an unsparing hand, few (comparatively) having escaped destruction. Of some of these, however, the author produced rubbings, and having traced the history down to the nineteenth century, and referred to the latest of that period (prior to those produced under his own direction), proceeded to urge the desirableness of possessing, as a nation, a complete collection of the rubbings of the brasses of this country, as illustrative of the costume and history of bygone times, and the propriety of such a collection being deposited in the British Museum.

FIRST PROCEEDINGS OF NEW SEWERS' COMMISSIONERS.

The first general court of the Commissioners of Sewers, appointed in pursuance of the recommendation of the Metropolitan Sanitary Commissioners under the great seal, was held on Thursday, in committee-room, No. 6, House of Commons. Present—The Right Hon. Lord Morpeth, M.P., in the chair; the Right Hon. Lord Ashley, M.P., Mr. J. Walter, M.P., Hon. F. Byng, Sir E. Buxton, M.P., Mr. R. A. Slaney, M.P., Dr. Southwood Smith, Mr. Bullar, Mr. J. Leslie, Mr. E. Chadwick, Professor Owen, Mr. Hulton, Mr. R. L. Jones, Mr. J. Broderip, Rev. W. Stone, and Mr. W. Puckle.

Several commissioners were sworn in for the St. Katharine's division, and also for the divisions of Kent and Surrey, and Greenwich.

The minutes of a preliminary meeting held at Gwydyr House were read and confirmed.

Lord Morpeth then rose and said, that he wished to mention to the court, that he was of opinion that it would be desirable that a bill should be drawn up to assimilate the powers of this commission in the whole of the districts intrusted to their care. He would not, however, occupy the attention of the court further upon it, as it would be a matter for legislative consideration.

The suggestion of the right hon. chairman was unanimously agreed to.

The proposed Survey of the entire Metropolis.—Lord Morpeth called upon the clerk, Mr. C. Hertslet, to read the report of Mr. Chadwick and Sir H. De la Beche, appointed to consider the subject of a general survey of the metropolis, which was as follows:—

"It having been determined to apply to the Board of Ordnance for assistance in obtaining an early survey of the metropolis, and it having been specially referred to us to consider what particulars might be inserted in such survey, we have the honour to report:—

That at the request of Lord Morpeth we obtained a conference with the Master General of the Ordnance, and explained to him the general position of the several sewers' districts in the metropolis, and the need of immediate aid. The Master-General expressed to us the

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